



Vermont Bumblebee Conservation



Why are bumblebees important?



Canola oil depends on bee pollination and is used as fuel and cooking oil.

As a result of this, Earth will become barren and dry as plants are unable to grow and systems will be less diverse.



Most plants are pollinated by bees!



Cotton relies on bee pollination, leading to impacts on clothing and cotton products.

Therefore, if populations decline...



Food and nutrient diversity would be severely impacted.



Less bees means fewer living trees to retain water, so the supply of potable water would be diminished.



What is happening to bumblebees in Vermont?

Vermont's bumblebee populations are **declining** due to pesticide use. As they are important pollinators to many plant species, a decrease in bee populations means that plant species are struggling to reproduce.



Vermont has 17 native species of bumblebees, 4 of which have gone extinct.

US COLONIES DECLINE

In the past 50 years, the population of domesticated honeybees has dropped 50 percent. The rate of loss experienced by the industry is unsustainable.

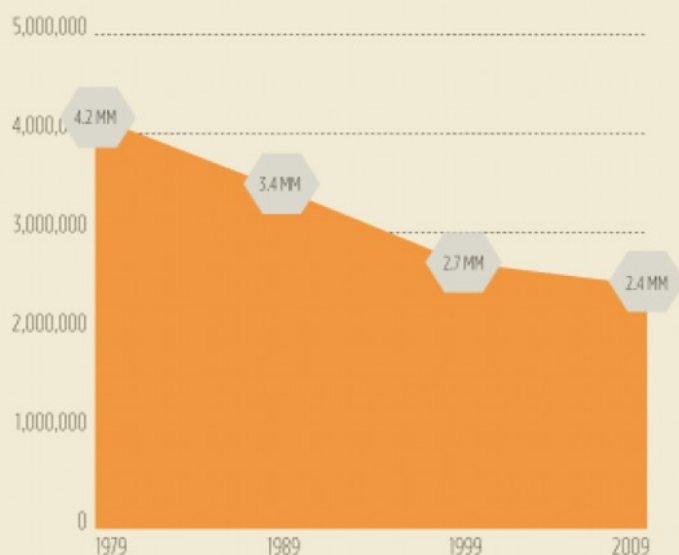


Figure 1 US Colony Decline

Figure 1 shows how bee population decline is happening across the country.

As shown in Figure 2, 8 species have experienced a measurable decline since 1999.

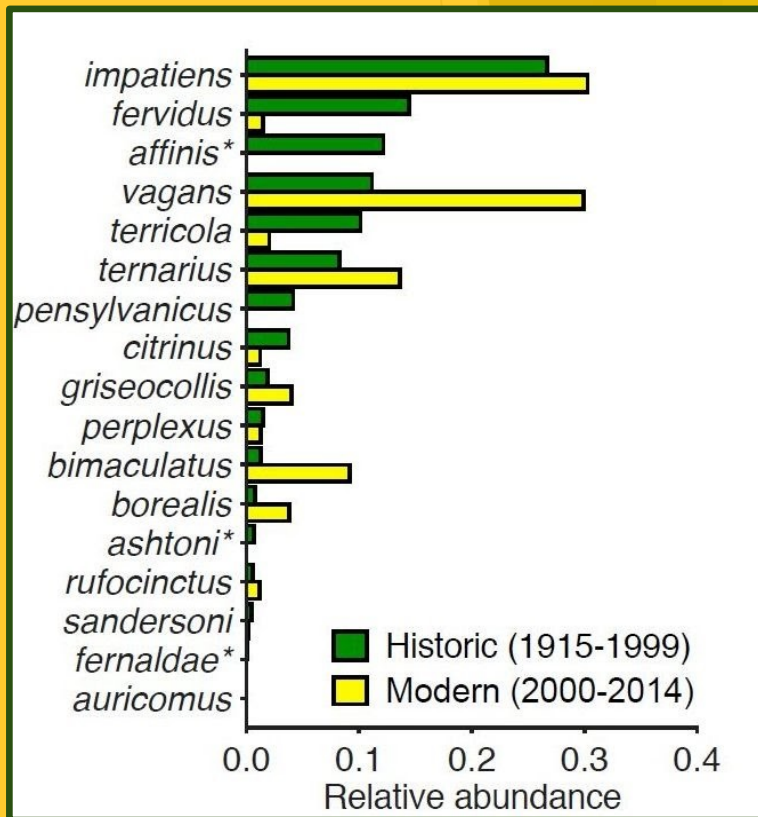


Figure 2 Individual Vermont Bee Species Populations

What can WE do to help the Vermont bee population?



Bring awareness to the community about the harmful impacts of pesticides and the importance of bees.

Avoid monocropping! Use techniques to diversify planting such as companion planting.



Advocate for economic incentives to be provided for farmers to get rid of pesticides- this benefits farmers and bee populations.



Farmers can use alternatives such as using fewer toxic pesticides, biocontrol, companion planting, natural barriers, natural predators, and netting for crops.

